REMARKS

The Official Action mailed September 10, 2003, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 14, 2000, July 21, 2000, November 13, 2001, and April 30, 2003.

Claims 1-60 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 8, 15, 23, 31, 36, 42 and 48 are independent. The independent claims have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-26, 28-30, 48-51, 53-56 and 60 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,153,142 to Hsieh and U.S. Patent No. 5,273,910 to Tran et al. The Official Action rejects claims 5, 12, 19, 27, 31-47, 52 and 57-59 as obvious based on the combination of Hsieh, Tran and U.S. Patent No. 5,027,185 to Liauh. The Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present invention, as amended.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of

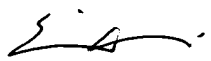
one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims, as amended. The independent claims of the present invention have been amended to recite a semiconductor layer having at least first and second impurity regions and a channel region formed on an insulating surface, wherein the semiconductor layer contains a catalyst element at a concentration of 1×10^{19} atoms/cm^3 or less, which is supported in the specification at page 13, first paragraph. Hsieh, Tran and Liauh do not teach or suggest at least the above-referenced feature of the present invention.

Since Hsieh, Tran and Liauh do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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